

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Alexander Melville Bell, July 1, 1875, with transcript

COPY. Salem, Mass., July 1st, 1875. Dear Papa:-

This afternoon on singing in front of a stretched membrane attached to the armatur of an electro magnet — the varying pitch of the voice was plainly discernible at the other end of the line (300 ft) no battery nor permanent magnet being employed.

The vibrations were not mechanically conducted, but were produced by magneto-electricity occasioned by the vibration of the Armature of the electro magnet.

When the sounds are received upon another stretched membrane — instems of a steel spring which can only vibrate to certain pitches — it is highly probable that the “timbre” of the voice may be perceived. I feel that I am on the threshold of a great discovery.

Your affectionate son, (SIGNED) ALECK. Prof. A. M. Bell, Brantford, Ontario.

[2321–4]